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IN THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL EXAMINING AUTHORITY

International Application No.: PCT/US03/10177

International Filing Date: 3 April 2003

Priority Date Claimed: 3 April 2002

Applicants for DO/US: Adam GATES, Baohua GU and
Robert SARISKY

Title of Invention: HEPATITIS C VIRUS SUB-GENOMIC REPLICONS

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop: PCT
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to calculating filing fees and examining this application please amend the application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.